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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY FOR APRIL 25-26, 2005

This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for April 25-26, 2005. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

RADIKAL: As construction of the BTC (Baku-Tibilisi-Ceyhan Pipeline) nears an end, Kazakhstan - despite objections from China and Russia - has announced that 7.5 million tons of Kazakh oil would be carried through the BTC to the Mediterranean. To this end, a pipeline under the Caspian Sea will be constructed to bring Kazakh oil to the BTC.

HURRIYET: Unidentified people threw a burning fuel-filled container into the entrance of the Turkish-American Association in the city center in Adana. Upon noticing the flames at the gate, local residents called the firefighters and the police. Five minutes later, another attack was conducted against an insurance agency on Turhan Cemal Beriker Boulevard in Adana. Again, unidentified people threw a fuel-filled burning container at the windows of the agency. The attack produced only a local fire since the container fell against the exterior side of the window and was prevented from entering by a Venetian blind.

SABAH (GUNEY) / EVRENSEL / BOLGE: Members of the Education-Union (Egitim-Sen) protested a lawsuit that aims to shut down the Union. People marched in the streets and chanted slogans in Adana, Ankara, Istanbul, Mersin, Diyarbakir, Sivas and Tunceli.

EKSPRES: Berc Kartun, the muhtar (headman) of Vakifli Koy in Hatay, the only Armenian village in Turkey, reportedly said that nobody had ever oppressed the Armenians in the village in the course of the 300 years they have been there. Kartun is reported as saying the EU has been exploiting the Armenian issue for its political ends.

ZAMAN / BOLGE / EKSPRES: Adana Mayor Aytac Durak departs for Iran today upon an invitation from the Iranian Ministry of Internal Affairs to represent Turkey in an April 28 event called "Congress for Municipality Assemblies."

OZGUR GUNDEM: Thirty thousand people, who reportedly participated in a "Spring Festival" in Yuksekova district of Hakkari, demanded that the military operations in southeastern Turkey be ended, a peaceful environment be maintained, and Abdullah Ocalan be released.

OZGUR GUNDEM: The family of Abdulgani Dag is still waiting for the courts to take action on their request for an investigation into Dag's alleged disappearance in July 1994, after he was allegedly detained by soldiers in Nusaybin district of Mardin. Despite the claim that there are witnesses to the act, the Office of the Diyarbakir Prosecutor allegedly has not responded to complaints filed by Dag's sister.

CUMHURİYET: The total amount of oil that leaked from BOTAS's Batman-Yumurtalik pipeline (see press summ 4/18 and 4/20) was reported as thirty-five thousand barrels. A 400-person group, including American and English specialists, is handling the decontamination activities of the affected area and the oil extracted is being sent to Adiyaman province. Reportedly, farmers' drainage activities caused the leak accident.

SABAH (GUNEY): A fight that broke out in Adana between two clans, who originally come from Diyarbakir, wounded one police officer and five people. Ten people were detained after the police ended the clash that included guns, sticks and stones.

RADIKAL / EKSPRES: DYP (True Path Party) leader Mehmet Agar arrived in Mersin to address the public at a political meeting. As party members were waiting to welcome their leader, a fight broke out between two groups of party members who could not agree on who would occupy the front lines of the crowd that awaited Agar's arrival.

EVRENSEL: Provincial Health Directorate of Van warned that the environmental pollution in Van Lake has increased compared to the previous years.

HURRIYET (CUKUROVA): Upon receiving an invitation from Kilis Governor Aslan Kutukcu, mine clearing specialists came from

Germany and conducted studies around the border with Syria.

REID